

The Franco-Americans: Continuities and Variegations

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SUMMARY

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THE 1970 FRENCH MOTHER TONGUE POPULATION OF NEW ENGLAND:
A STATISTICAL PROFILE

NUMBER	906,000			
PROPORTION	8% of New England population			
DISTRIBUTION	Two-thirds in three southern states Forty percent in Massachusetts Five percent in Vermont			
URBAN	Eighty percent urban Sixty-four percent metropolitan			
AGE	(Percent over 65, Total New England, 11%)	Range	13% (ME) 17% (RI,MA)	
	(Percent under 25, Total New England, 40%)	Range	24% (MA) 32% (ME)	
RACE	(Percent white, Total New England, 96.3)	Range	99.6% (CO) 100% (ME,RI)	
NATIVE BORN		Range	82% (CO,VT) 90% (RI)	
RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY	(Percent in same country as 5 years before, Total New England, 80%)	Range	81% (RI) 91% (CO)	
CHILDREN EVER BORN		Range	1.813 (RI) 2.9 (VT)	
EDUCATION	(Percent with grade school or less, Total New England, 25%)	Range	Male 40% (VT,MA) 49% (ME) Female 38% (VT) 51% (ME)	
	(Percent with some post-secondary, Total New England, 23%)	Range	Male 11% (ME,NH,RI) 16% (VT) Female 7% (RI) 13% (VT)	
OCCUPATION	(Percent white collar, Total New England, 51%)	Range	Male 25% (ME) 30% (VT) Female 36% (NH) 49% (CO)	
	(Percent blue collar, Total New England, 37%)	Range	Male 45% (VT) 67% (CO) Female 20% (VT) 49% (RI)	
INDUSTRY	(Percent Agriculture, Fish- ing, Forestry, Mining, Total New England, 2%)	Range	Male 1% (CO) 16% (VT)	
	(Percent Manufacturing & Construc- tion, Total New England, 37%)	Range	Male 35% (VT) 64% (CO) Female 23% (VT) 51% (CO) RF	
	(Percent other, Total New England, 61%)	Range	Male 35% (CO) 49% (VT) Female 49% (RI) 76% (VT)	
INCOME	(Percent in families at or below poverty level, Total New England, 7%)	Range	8% (CO) 17% (VT)	
	(Percent with personal income 10,000 or more)	Range	10% (ME) 31% (CO)	

TABLE 17.

Degree of Association of Selected Characteristics
With French and English Mother Tongue:
New England States, 1970

Characteristic	Measure	Me.	N.H.	Vt.	Mass.	Conn.	R.I.
FERTILITY							
Children Ever Born	G	N	L	M	L	L	L
AGE	G	L	L	L	M	M	M
EDUCATION							
Years School	G	L	N	N	N	N	N
Finished Grade	V	L	L	L	L	L	L
Type School	V	L	L	L	L	L	L
WORK							
Industry	V	L	L	L	L	L	L
Occupation	V	L	L	L	L	L	L
ECONOMIC							
Family Income	G	N	N	N	N	N	--
Personal Income	G	N	N	N	N	N	N
Value of Property	G	N	L	N	M	M	L

N = Negligible less than .10

L = Low .10 to under .30

M = Moderate .30 to under .40

all sig at .10 or lower

SOURCE: M. Giguère, University of Southern Maine, from Public Use Samples of Basic Records from 1970 Census of Population.

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES
IN CHARACTERISTICS OF
FRENCH MOTHER TONGUE PERSONS

CONTINUITIES

Residence---Urban

Occupation--Blue Collar

Industry----Manufacturing and Construction

Religion----Catholic

DISCONTINUITIES

Education---More

Fertility---Lower

Income-----More

VARIEGATION OF
FRENCH MOTHER TONGUE POPULATIONS
OF NEW ENGLAND

MAINE	141,000	16% of FMT of New England	Youngest Lowest income Lowest educational level Slowest growth 1940-1970
NEW HAMPSHIRE	112,000	12% of FMT of New England	Highest proportion of state population
VERMONT	42,000	5% of FMT of New England	Most rural Most agricultural Highest educational level Highest fertility
MASSACHUSETTS	367,000	41% of FMT of New England	Oldest
RHODE ISLAND	101,000	11% of FMT of New England	Lowest fertility Most urban Highest proportion of women in semi-skilled occupations
CONNECTICUT	142,118	16% of FMT of New England	Highest income Highest proportion of males, blue collar Highest proportion of females, white collar Highest proportion in manufacturing and construction Lowest proportion of state population Highest growth rate 1940-1970

NEW ENGLAND COUNTIES WITH MORE THAN
10,000 FRENCH MOTHER TONGUE
AND
10 PERCENT FRENCH MOTHER TONGUE, 1970

	Number	Percent of Total Population
MAINE		
Androscoggin	36,000	39
Aroostook	27,000	29
Kennebec	18,000	19
York	26,000	24
NEW HAMPSHIRE		
Coos	13,000	37
Hillsborough	53,000	24
Strafford	12,000	17
RHODE ISLAND		
Kent	14,000	10
Providence	77,000	13
VERMONT		
Chittenden	13,000	13
MASSACHUSETTS		
Bristol	56,000	13
Essex	50,000	14
Hampden	50,000	11
Middlesex	70,000	19
Worcester	80,000	13
CONNECTICUT		
Windham	18,000	21